MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 2, 2015/2016

PEN0055 – ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

(All Foundations)

07 MARCH 2016
9.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **SIX** pages only.

2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A and B**. Answer only **ONE** question in **Section C**.

3. Please write all your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [26 MARKS]

Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

On the Trail of Treasure in the Rocky Mountains

1 Two years ago, Dal Neitzel, a 65-year-old former TV cameraman, set off in search of treasure. He drove 1,540 miles from his home to the Rocky Mountains in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the United States. He has been hunting for a Romanesque chest **laden** with treasure and antiquities worth millions: gold coins, pre-Columbian Incan and Mayan animal figures, a 17th-century Spanish emerald ring, a bracelet with more than 250 rubies, diamonds and Ceylon sapphires and two hand-carved Chinese jade masks. The contents of the chest are not completely known, but the chest has enough treasure to allure treasure hunters. Neitzel, like most treasure hunters, has stumbled upon a short poem in a book, *The Thrill of the Chase*, written by Forrest Fenn. Neitzel and many other treasure hunters have contacted and met Fenn about the treasure hunt, and this is also the typical way in which most treasure hunters and Fenn have crossed paths.

2 Fenn is an elderly antiquities dealer and also a real-life Indiana Jones who has a wonderful collection of treasure he has amassed over the last 40 years. In 1988, Fenn was diagnosed with kidney cancer, a deadly illness, and that was when Fenn started to formulate a plan. Fenn decided to leave a unique legacy: a fortune in antiquities. It will be found by anyone who can solve the clues in a 24-line poem. With messages which are difficult to comprehend, the poem apparently includes nine cryptic clues. It took him more than 20 years to work out the plan, by which time his cancer was long gone. In 2010, Fenn lugged the treasure chest to a mysterious place in the Rockies. He then published *The Thrill of the Chase*, which contains the 24-line poem and other clues leading to the treasure.

3 Some people have suggested that the treasure does not exist; instead, it is an elaborate hoax to sell the book. Fenn has shrugged this accusation off as he has not gained any profit from the sale of the book. Apart from the clues, the book has been written for a charitable cause. Fenn has donated the proceeds of its sale to a cancer fund. The book, which was initially available through only one bookshop in Santa Fe, sold steadily, but it was not until 2013 that Fenn's treasure became a national phenomenon in the United States.

4 Fenn began his treasure hunt at the age of nine. He has always loved adventure and has spent his life collecting treasure. "The mountains continue to beckon me. They always will," Fenn wrote in his book. Approaching 84 years old, Fenn lives with his wife in a beautiful house surrounded by trees in the hills overlooking Santa Fe. In his study, through his years of collecting, trading and excavating, there is a peerless collection of antiquities which is far more valuable and astounding than the collections by other art dealers. The bulk of Fenn's wealth will be passed down to his daughters and grandchildren. Apart from his cancer scare, what really motivates Fenn to give away part of his fortune? In fact, many people ponder the nature of death, so does Fenn. Most people will be nothing but the leftovers of history; hence, he wants history to remember him. At the same

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time, he wants people to experience history, not just read about it in dusty books. To illustrate this, Fenn says that when somebody finds his treasure many years or decades later, he or she will be definitely amazed at what things were like back then in history. Fern also insists that the treasure hunt is not really only about finding the treasure. It is also about encouraging families to go out of their houses and into the mountains to experience the wilderness.

5 Since the release of his book, a staggering number of about 30,000 people have gone searching for the treasure, and he has received 18 marriage proposals. Treasure hunters interpret Fenn's every word, written or spoken, and even pictures he has posted on the web. A novel, *The Codex*, which is about a notorious treasure hunter, is based on Fenn's story. The treasure has also attracted many seekers to New Mexico. This is a jackpot for tourism in the state.

6 Despite his glory as a collector of antiquities, Fenn's challenge has drawn criticisms from some scholars, curators and archaeologists. Santa Fe National Forest regards Fenn's treasure hunt as a problem and danger to the vast reserves of cultural archaeology in Santa Fe National Forest. Some treasure hunters have also violated the rules in Yellowstone National Park, a hotbed for searchers due to Fenn's boyhood adventures there, and some have been banned from the park.

7 Fearless of the problems, Fenn continues to give hints to his treasure hunters. Additional hints about the mysterious location of the treasure have been issued. Nevertheless, a question has been raised among the treasure hunters. The additional clues imply that the treasure is hidden near water, but the courses of waterways can change drastically from season to season, let alone over centuries. For the purpose of clearing the doubt, Fenn has given a new explanation. According to him, his clues will withstand the test of time, but the treasure chest, just like everything else, will fall victim to geological phenomena such as earthquakes, floods, mudslides, fires and tornadoes.

8 As of today, the chest he buried remains undiscovered. As nobody can see the future life, Fenn is ambivalent about the possibility that it will be found within his lifetime, but he can surely tell that when someone finds the precious chest with valuables, whether it is tomorrow or 10,000 years later, and opens the lid, he or she will be stunned. It is such a sight! Since the future is unpredictable, Fenn has another unusual plan. If his kidney cancer recurs, he hopes to include one more element in the treasure: his bones. When *the time* comes, he is going to grab some sleeping pills and his biography. He will walk miles to the Rockies and die next to his treasure. Sometime later, treasure hunters who find his bones and treasure chest will know who he is: a man who is certainly not willing to die in a hospital bed. As bizarre as it sounds, this plan for his death is just one of the strange ways he has lived.

Adapted from Morton, M.C. (February, 2015). *On the trail of treasure in the Rocky Mountains*. Retrieved from http://www.earthmagazine.org/article/trail-treasure-rocky-mountains

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Question 1: Contextual Clues (6 marks)

Instructions: *Provide a word from the reading passage for each definition below.*

Example:	**heavily loaded**	**(paragraph 1)**	**word: laden**
a)	attract or tempt	(paragraph 1)	_____
b)	gathered a large quantity of something over a period of time	(paragraph 2)	_____
c)	having a hidden meaning that cannot be easily understood	(paragraph 2)	_____
d)	an attempt to make others believe in something not true	(paragraph 3)	_____
e)	better than any other of its type	(paragraph 4)	_____
f)	being uncertain or doubtful	(paragraph 8)	_____

Question 2: True or False (5 marks)

Instructions: *For each statement, write (T) if the statement is true and (F) if the statement is false.*

a) Treasure hunters know the complete contents of the treasure chest.

b) Fenn's recovery from the deadly illness did not affect his decision to leave a unique legacy.

c) The treasure drew the attention of the whole nation of the United States when the book, *The Thrill of the Chase*, was first sold.

d) The treasure chest will be affected by the destruction caused by natural forces.

e) The person who finds the treasure will be stunned by the sight of Fenn's biography.

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Question 3: Comprehension Questions (15 marks)

Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

a. Explain how most treasure hunters have had the chance to meet the owner of the treasure. (2 marks)

b. What are the two purposes of publishing *The Thrill of the Chase?* (2 marks)

c. Apart from Fenn's deadly illness, what are the reasons behind giving away part of his wealth? (3 marks)

d. List three examples which show that Fenn is able to arouse a strong interest among treasure hunters to get hold of his treasure. (3 marks)

e. State the main idea of paragraph 6. (1 mark)

f. Why are treasure hunters still uncertain about the whereabouts of the treasure after more clues are given to them? (1 mark)

g. i. What does "the time" in line 74 refer to? (1 mark)

ii. Why does Fenn have a bizarre intention to die next to his treasure when the time comes? (2 marks)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [10 MARKS]

Instructions: *The following extract contains 10 errors in fragment, run-on sentence, faulty parallelism and faulty modifier. Identify these errors and correct them as shown in the example.*

Example:	No	Line	Error	Correction
	0	1 – 2	...home. Feeling...	...home, feeling...

The Mind-Bending Effects of Foreign Accent Syndrome

Julie Matthias's family have a game they like to play after she comes home. Feeling disappointed, from an appointment with the doctor. During dinner, they pick a foreign accent and challenge each other to speak in a strange voice. The playful jokes that her doctors have struggled to treat help to distract her from the distress of a medical condition. Despite having lived in the United Kingdom for her whole life, Matthias now no longer speaks with an English accent, she sounds French or Chinese.

Matthias is one of a handful of people diagnosed with foreign accent syndrome, a rare medical condition which is permanent and irreversible in the United Kingdom. Although their speech is completely fluent, their voices have taken on odd characteristics that make them sound as if they grew up in another country. The main cause is unclear, complicated and a puzzle to scientists. Matthias's experience can be pinned down to a car accident that was followed by blinding migraines. Often accompanied by debilitating body pain. A few months after these painful episodes started, something even stranger happened, her voice started shifting accent.

It is not clear as to why the car accident caused that shift. No neurologist been able to identify a definite cause of her migraines or her strange accent. It is hurtful, especially when the people around her fail to see the impact of the disorder. People just take it as a joke, and they focus on the fact that she speaks with a funny accent.

It is difficult to imagine the condition in which one goes to sleep, wakes up and no longer sounds like the person he or she really is, and there is nothing that can be done about it. This disorder has a very profound effect on a patient's sense of identity in many ways, Matthias's experiences resemble those of others with the disorder, including a sadly altered perception of herself. Sometimes, Matthias is even afraid to look in the mirror, see her own reflection and to speak to herself, because it is not her voice. Some patients feel marginalised, like a foreigner in their own countries. Facing issues with their identity, unkind responses from the people around them have to be dealt with by the patients.

Adapted from Robson, D. (May, 2015). *The mind-bending effects of foreign accent syndrome.* Retrieved from http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150513-the-weird-effects-of-foreign-accent-syndromes

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SECTION C: WRITING [24 MARKS]

Instructions: *Write an essay of about 350 words on **ONE** of the topics below.*

a) Good personal characteristics play a vital role in ensuring a happy and successful relationship. On the other hand, there are bad personal characteristics which can cause a relationship to fail. What are the bad personal characteristics that destroy a relationship?

b) Teens and adulthood are two different stages that everybody experiences in life. What are the differences between these two stages of life?

End of Paper